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## PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Natural Science Association of Staten Island.—September 10, 1887.—Mr. Wm. T. Davis presented the following entomological notes: A little over a year ago, on July 3, while sitting on the piazza in the evening, I saw a *Calosoma scrutator* running across the floor. After a time it came to a stand-still and, lowering its body (for this beetle ordinarily carries it rather high), beat its antennæ, particularly the left one, rapidly on the boards. This made quite a loud, whirring noise that could have been heard many feet distant. I was sitting about two yards away from the insect, and it was very plain to me. I approached cautiously and watched it repeat the operation several times, but it finally ran to the edge of the piazza and flew off into the grass. A proceeding of this kind on the part of an insect is always interesting, as it indicates some mental activity. I have endeavored to make further observations on the subject, but no *Calosoma* in the proper frame of mind has yet afforded an opportunity.

On June 22 of this year I captured a female *Hyperchiria Io*, and, wishing to get some eggs, I put her in an old hat-box, thinking she would lay them there. There was, however, quite a small hole in the side of the box, and the moth, putting her body through it, laid all the eggs on the outside, thus choosing the lightest situation instead of the dark interior. The most amusing trait of the young caterpillars of this species is the soldier-like way in which they follow one another. I have watched them walking along a branch, the leader turning about when still some distance from the end, and all those behind uniformly followed that course, turning at the very same point.

In the Proceedings for October, 1885, I gave an account of how a chrysalis of the Monarch butterfly developed while pierced by a pin, the imago appearing in due time. I have since pierced some chrysalids of the cabbage-butterfly (*Pieris rapæ*), and they also brought forth perfect insects. One of these insects, when hatched, had the pin through the thorax as if transfixed in the perfect state. Of course, they are badly deformed, but it goes to prove what injuries may be inflicted upon them in nature, and they yet survive.

Two specimens of these butterflies were exhibited.

A preliminary list of the crustaceans of the island was presented by Mr. Ernest A. Congdon; also a list of the marine algæ from the shores of the island, by Mr. Nicolas Pike.

Dr. H. L. Carroll, on behalf of the Committee on the American Association for the Advancement of Science, reported that a successful excursion had been enjoyed to Sandy Hook, on August 15, in connection with the Torrey Botanical Club and the visiting botanists and entomologists of the association.

The American Ornithologists' Union held its annual meeting at the rooms of the Boston Society of Natural History, October 11 to 13, 1887. President J. A. Allen, of New York, occupied the chair. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were presented first, showing that the society had 25 foreign, 74 active, 46 associate, and 200 corresponding members. The foreign membership is limited to 25, the active to 100, the associate to 50, while the corresponding membership is unlimited in numbers. The treasurer's reports showed receipts of \$1764, and expenditures of \$1217. The council advised the incorporation of the Union under the laws of the State of New York. Some of the papers presented were of general interest and permanent value, while others were local lists of birds, and a few might even be enumerated as "cranky." Among the more prominent were, "An Account of the Life and Ornithological Work of the Late Prof. S. F. Baird," by Robert Ridgway, of the National Museum; "Cormorant Fishing in Japan," by P. L. Jouy; "A Bird-Wave," by Montague Chamberlain; "Nocturnal Migrations of Birds," by F. M. Chapman; "Minor Notes," by Colonel N. S. Goss.

The National Academy of Sciences held its autumn meeting at Columbia College, New York, commencing November 8, 1887. The following papers were read: "Seismoscopes and Seismological Investigations," T. C. Mendenhall; "On the Primary Specializations of the True Fishes," E. D. Cope; "A Study of the Behavior of Metals under Variations of Temperature," Wm. A. Rogers; "Chemism in its Relations to Temperature and Pressure," T. Sterry Hunt; "On the Mechanical Origin of the Structures of the Hard Parts of the Mammalia," E. D. Cope; "Progressive Series in Chemistry," T. Sterry Hunt; "Kilauea, a Basalt Volcano," J. D. Dana; "Circulation of the Sea through New York Harbor," Henry Mitchell; "On a Study of Color Contrast," Ogden N. Rood; "On the Relative Variability of Men and Women," W. K. Brooks; "On a New Form of Reproduction in Medusæ," W. K. Brooks; "On the Lucayan Indians," W. K. Brooks; "Experiments in Measurements of Statical Electricity in Absolute Units," A. M. Mayer; "On Potential as measured by Work: a Mathematical Discussion," A. M. Mayer; "A Comparison of Antipodal Faunas," Theo. Gill; "On a Discovery recently made in Connection with the Flight of Birds," W. P. Trowbridge; "On the Determination of Star Magnitudes by Photography," E. C. Pickering; "On the Constant of Aberration," A. Hall; "The Cretaceous Coals of Western North America," J. S. Newberry; "The Future of Gold and Silver Production," J. S. Newberry; "The Temperature of the Moon," S. P. Langley; "On a Method of making the Wave-Length of Sodium-Light the Absolute Standard of Length," A. A. Michelson and E. W. Morley.